(b) Air India has no proposal, at present, to abolish PLI.

Air India has however decided to discontinue PLB to Travel Agents effective Dec. 1, 1998 in the India region, provided all major airlines support this decision and do not pay PLB to agents.

Committee on the Functioning of Air India

1724. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee has been set up for the improvement of the functioning of Air India;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Government has constituted a Committee of experts under the chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, at present Finance Secretary, Government of India to undertake a comprehensive examination of the reasons for the losses incurred by the Air India and to suggest a strategy for turning around the company.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

गैर-योजनागत व्यय में 10 प्रतिशत कटौती

1725. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:**
श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने सभी मंत्रालयों तथा विभागों को चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान गैर-योजनागत व्यय में 10 प्रतिशत की कटौती करने के संबंध में निदेश जारी किये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये निदेश क्या-क्या हैं तथा इन निदेशों को जारी करने की क्या आवश्यकता थी; और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उन क्षेत्रों की पहचान कर ली है जिनमें 10 प्रतिशत कटौती की जायेगी तथा यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा): (क) से (ग) चालू वित्त वर्ष में सरकार द्वारा जारी 10 प्रतिशत अनिवार्य कटौती संबंधी दिशानिर्देश व्यय की केवल अवैतनिक मदों, अर्थात् यात्रा व्यय, कार्यालय व्यय, पेट्रोल, तेल और स्नेहक (लुब्रीकेन्ट) समयोपरि भत्ता और मानदेय से संबंधित है। बढ़ते व्यय को सीमित और नियंत्रित करने के उद्देश्य से इन मदों को प्रतिबन्धित करना आवश्यक समझा गया है।

Issuance of Pan Card Before 31st October, 1998

1726. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBDT had proposed to send PAN cards to 1.3 crore assessees before October 31, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons for mission the deadline;

(c) the number of applications received for PAN so far and whether any deadline has been fixed again in this regard; and

(d) in what manner the Board proposes to achieve this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) In Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai, all applications received by the Regional Computer Centres were to be allotted Permanent Account Number (PAN) under new series by 31-10-98 and all other applicants are to be allotted PAN through On-line System by 31-3-1999. In the rest of the country, 70% of the applicants are to be allotted PAN under new series by 31-3-1999.

As against 28,38,481 applications received upto 31st October, 21,43,659 PAN under new series have been allotted in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai upto 31-10-1998. In rest of the country 1,22,68,545 applications for allotment of PAN under new series have been received upto 31-10-1998 and 6,73,207